

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Examiner's first Office Action mailed September 22, 2004. Claims 2, 6, 18, and 20 have been amended, claims 4, 9-17, 19, and 20-22 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 are currently pending in the present application. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

In a July 2, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3, 5, and 8. The applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because reference number 52 was used for both the light and the non-reflective surface. The specification and drawing have been amended to correct the duplicative numbering and the generic light shown in FIG. 5 has been renumbered with reference number 53. As reference number 53 was not previously used in the present application, we believe this sufficiently addresses the Examiner's concerns. Regarding the objection relating to the light transmissive surface, the applicants have amended to specification to refer back to the playing surface 10 of FIG. 1 that is made of a light transmissive surface. The applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art on reading the disclosure would know without further teaching that the surface of FIG. 1 can be combined with or replace the surface/bias of FIG. 5 to achieve a playing surface with reflective and light transmissive properties. As such, the applicants respectfully submit the drawings, claims, and specification meet all the requirements and they respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 6, 7, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The applicants respectfully suggest the amended claims traverse the Examiner objections.

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner stated the claim appears to be incomplete as the location/placement of the non-reflective material needed to be clarified. Claim 2 has been amended to recite “placing non-reflective material on the playing surface.” The applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner stated it was not clear with what the reflective surface is non-contiguous. Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the reflective surface can comprise “a plurality of noncontiguous reflective surfaces coupled to the base.” For support that the reflective surface can comprise a plurality of noncontiguous reflective surfaces, the applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to FIG. 5 and the associated text showing reflective surface 50 is capable of being three separate pieces separated by goalie box, or non-reflective surface 52. The applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 7, claim 7 was only rejected because it was dependent on a rejected base claim. Because claim 6 is now in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

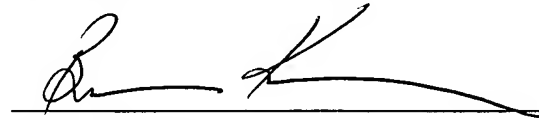
Regarding claims 18 and 20, the Examiner indicated that the “means for illuminating” was inapt. In particular, the Examiner seems to indicate the term should more appropriately be “brightening” instead of “illuminating.” As seemingly requested by the Examiner, the applicants have made the appropriate change.

In light of the above, it is believed that Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 overcome the Examiner’s rejections and objections, and are allowable over the prior art of record. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned at (303) 295-8170 if any additional information is needed.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2623. Should any extensions of time not accounted for be required, consider this a petition therefore and charge the associated fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace drawing sheet 5/5 with the drawings attached to the transmittal of replacement drawing. Replacement sheet 5/5 corrects the repetitive number issue identified by the Examiner, and the applicants respectfully submit no new matter has been added by the replacement sheet.